

Such gatherings of Christians can not but be instructive and inspiring. I wonder how many from the Brethren church will attend. It is to be hoped that all you who can, will. And I further hope that those that may attend from the Brethren church will come to National Conference prepared to give a report of the best things said and done at the convention. Furthermore I should be pleased to have those that attend, correspond with me either now or immediately after the convention.

Our Literature

The time has already come when we must arrange for the printing of topic cards and such other literature as is necessary to the work of the society. But as President of the Society I scarcely know what to do. I have yet on hand about one-third of the topic cards printed last October, and the bill for printing yet unpaid. As you must know our organization like all others of the church has no endowments to depend upon. Our only source of income has been from the sale of topic cards, which is inadequate to meet the expenses of the society. We placed the price of our topic cards at fifty cents per hundred, thinking that, while the margin was small, we could sell a sufficient number to justify us in the undertaking. But we have not been justified. We have sold about three thousand cards, which at fifty cents per hundred makes fifteen dollars received. It cost four dollars and eighty cents to send these cards, leaving a net profit of ten dollars and twenty cents. I have written during the year about two hundred letters, which cost, not to speak of stationery, four dollars. The mailing of my contributions to the EVANGELIST has cost about one dollar. This leaves about five dollars in our treasury not allowing for the expenses that will be incurred in getting our reports, etc., for our National conference.

The question that now confronts us is, What shall we do about topic cards for our next year's work? Will our societies continue to buy outside the church, or will they come to our assistance? Will we, as a church, never learn the lesson of loyalty to our interests?

As president of the United Society, I shall make no move toward the betterment of our work, in which expenses are incurred, until I know that I shall have the unanimous support of our societies. I shall not arrange for topic cards until I am assured that our societies as a whole will purchase them, and that liberally.

We now have a bill of ten dollars that is due the Publishing House. They need it. How shall we make it? Your president is not able to meet it. There are a few outstanding accounts that ought to be paid, mostly under the former organization, but I find that it is a loss of money to send bills.

Would I be asking too much, if I should ask each society to ask for a free-will offering from each of their members and others not members that may be interested in our work, in order that our work may enter next

year's work free from debt and if possible some money in the treasury? Should any society ask this of their members and they respond, just hand the amount to some delegate to National Conference who can hand it to me.

Next week I shall write something concerning our work at our next National Conference. Yours in Christian work.

WM. D. FURRY.

The Christian Life

The Coming Harvest

We are praying for the harvest,
For the gleam of reaping time,
When the fruit of all our sowing
Shall appear in every clime.
We are praying for the dawning
Of the bright and golden day
When the Gospel of the Savior
Shall from pole to pole hold sway.

We are working for the harvest,
Oft in gladness, oft in tears;
Oftentimes with hearts a-glowing,
Oftentimes with doubts and fears;
All the labor and the sorrow
Point us to the future years,
When the love of Christ doth conquer,
And the Golden Age appears.

We are waiting for the harvest—
Waiting calmly day by day—
For we too must rest in quietness,
While we work and while we pray.
On the hilltops of our silence,
With the eyes of faith and love,
We can see the coming glory
Streaming earthward from above.

Hail! thou glorious harvest morning,
Quickly come the day and hour
When the weeping earth shall blossom
'Neath the Prince of peace's power.
When o'er every tribe and nation
He, the King of kings, shall reign,
And the long-departed Eden
Shall return to us again.

There's no time for idle brooding,
No need for despairing words,
Let us all be up and doing,
For the earth shall be the Lord's.
By our praying and our working,
By our faithful waiting, too,
We shall herald in the morning
When the harvest comes to view.

—Christian Advocate.

PRAYER MEETING TOPIC

THE PARABLES—"THE POUNDS."

I. *The Parable. Luke 19: 11-27.*

a. Why it was spoken, v. 11, Luke 17: 20-37.

b. "Servants" here as in most places means "slaves." Phil. 1: 1.

c. A "pound" was a silver coin worth about \$17. See Bible Helps.

d. Two classes are represented in the parable. 1. Servants, who are the Christians. 2. Citizens, who are those not Christians, v. 14.

e. The duty of each class is shown: 1. The servants to use their Lord's pound. 1 Cor. 7: 31; Eph. 5: 15, 16. 2. The citizens, to acknowledge him as king and become his servants. (Matt. 9: 32.)

II Life Lessons.

a. While waiting for Christ's return we

all have something to do. Mk. 13: 33-37; Lu. 21: 34-36.

b. The reward of each will be according to our use of our pound. 1 Cor. 3: 8-14; Rom. 2: 6; Matt. 16: 27; Rev. 22: 12. f. Notice the difference between salvation and reward: Salvation is the *gift* of God. Eph. 2: 8. Reward is according to work done as a servant, or according to evil done as a sinner.

c. The law in regard to abilities, opportunities, or spiritual faculties is, "use or lose." v. 26.

d. Those who will not have Christ as their king are enemies and as such are doomed to destruction. 1. The law noticed above does not indicate that they will repent.

The Sunday School

LESSON FOR JULY 23

BY THE EDITOR

The Handwriting on the Wall.—Dan. 5: 17-31

17 Then Daniel answered and said before the king, Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation.

18 O thou king, the most high God gave Nebuchadnezzar thy father a kingdom, and majesty, and glory, and honor:

19 And for the majesty that he gave him, all people, nations, and languages, trembled and feared before him: whom he would he slew; and whom he would he kept alive; and whom he would he set up; and whom he would he put down.

20 But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him.

21 And he was driven from the sons of men: and his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild asses: they fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven; till he knew that the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and that he appointed over it whomsoever he will.

22 And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, tho thou knewest all this;

23 But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified.

24 Then was the part of the hand sent from him; and this writing was written.

25 And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.

26 This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.

27 TEKEL; Thou art in weighed the balances, and art found wanting.

28 PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

29 Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

30 In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.

31 And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old.

Golden Text. God is the judge. Ps. 75: 7.

Lesson Thought. Our days are being numbered and our life weighed in the balances of heaven.